



August 17, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance (CMTA), I urge your strong support for the City of Baltimore's TIGER II grant application for the Westport Waterfront Transit-Oriented Development (Westport Waterfront TOD). The Westport Waterfront TOD will provide multi-modal transportation infrastructure, including light rail, highway, pedestrian, bike and road, to support the development of 13,000 new jobs and 2,000 housing units and the rehabilitation of a 50 acre Brownfields site in a severely distressed area of Baltimore.

The CMTA is a coalition of private, public and non-profit organizations, civic and business leaders dedicated to making it easier, faster, and more efficient to travel within Central Maryland. We seek to find common ground among our member organizations to reduce congestion, limit sprawl, manage growth, increase opportunity and enhance the driver/rider experience.

The Westport Waterfront TOD represents the kind of wise public investment in transportation infrastructure that the CMTA supports. It will:

- Promote redevelopment of vacant and contaminated property in a highly distressed area of the Baltimore region
- Upgrade and link existing multi-modal assets to reduce congestion and improve air quality
- Enhance user mobility by upgrading existing transportation facilities
- Provide new opportunities for disadvantaged residents in Southwest Baltimore to access meaningful employment and goods and services

The Westport Waterfront TOD proposal not only meets the requirements of the TIGER II grant but embodies the spirit of the Obama Administration's Sustainable Communities initiative by addressing the critical need to invest in Baltimore's urban core while building the transportation infrastructure essential to support sustainable economic growth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michelle Whelley".

Michelle Whelley
President and CEO

cc: Mr. Jamie Kendrick, Baltimore City Department of Transportation